

## Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

## § 1466.2

### § 1465.36 Environmental services credits for conservation improvements.

NRCS recognizes that environmental benefits will be achieved by implementing conservation practices funded through AMA, and that environmental credits may be gained as a result of implementing activities compatible with the purposes of an AMA contract. NRCS asserts no direct or indirect interest on these credits. However, NRCS retains the authority to ensure that operation and maintenance requirements for AMA-funded improvements are met, consistent with §1465.21 and §1465.22. Where activities may impact the land under an AMA contract, participants are highly encouraged to request an operation and maintenance compatibility determination prior to entering into any credit agreements. The AMA conservation program contract may be modified in accordance with policies outlined in §1465.24 provided the modifications meet AMA purposes and are in compliance with this part.

## PART 1466—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; 16 U.S.C. 3839aa-3839-8

SOURCE: 68 FR 32348, May 30, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General Provisions

SOURCE: 74 FR 2308, Jan. 15, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1466.1 Applicability.

(a) The purposes of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals, and to optimize environmental benefits. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and air quality, wildlife habitat, surface and groundwater conservation, energy conservation, and related natural resource concerns. EQIP's financial and technical assistance helps producers comply with environmental regulations and enhance agricultural and forested lands in a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial manner. The purposes of the program are achieved by planning and implementing conservation practices on eligible land.

(b) EQIP is available in any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### § 1466.2 Administration.

(a) The funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are available to NRCS for carrying out EQIP. Accordingly, where NRCS is mentioned in this Part, it also